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# Tip O'Neill's Last Hurrah

*By Vera Glaser*

\* \* \* \* **EXCERPTED**

In the 85th Congress, when the Democratic Study Group was organized in an effort to break the hold of the coalition of Republicans and southern Democrats that then ruled Congress, O'Neill joined but wasn't very active. He still preferred to concentrate on his contacts and visibility in Massachusetts in order to run for governor. It was a goal, however, that Millie discouraged, calling it a "dead-end job."

Gradually, O'Neill was being drawn into the national mainstream and creating a new image that was to place him on the leadership ladder. In late 1967 he

jolted the Democratic party and angered President Lyndon Johnson by opposing the Vietnam war. O'Neill's children had expressed growing unhappiness with the war, and his own talks with the military and the CIA convinced him that it was unwinnable. O'Neill called it "too high a price to pay for an obscure and limited objective." He thought his stand would ruin him politically, but it appealed to liberals.

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**EXCERPTED**